

Ashbringer issue 1 -- Death is Contagious

PAGE ONE

1. CAPTION: Azeroth.
2. CAPTION: A land of conflict, in a time of **war**.
3. CAPTION: The **Second War** between **orcs** and **humans**.
4. CAPTION: It has been a long and bloody campaign, and now, the war's most **pivotal** battle...
5. CAPTION: is about to **begin**.
6. ABBENDIS: My lord!
7. ABBENDIS: Status report, sir. Supply lines have been **restored**.
8. ALEXANDROS: And what of the ballistae?
9. ABBENDIS: Arriving presently.
10. ALEXANDROS: Good. The fortress of **Blackrock Spire** will not fall easily. The siege is sure to be a long and difficult one.
11. ABBENDIS: But worth it to put these orcish dogs out of their misery!
12. MESSENGER: **Highlord Mograine! Doomhammer's** forces have attacked and overrun forward positions! **Commander Lothar** and **Lord Uther** are engaged as we speak!
13. ALEXANDROS: Well Abbendis, it seems our **dogs** still have **teeth**!
14. ALEXANDROS: Ready yourselves men! If it is **blood** these green-skinned heathens crave, then blood they shall **have**! Come, you knights! Raise hammers, bare steel! We **fight** to the end, we **die** if we must! **For Lordaeron, FOR THE KING!!!**

PAGES TWO AND THREE

1. TITLE: DEATH IS CONTAGIOUS
2. ALEXANDROS: **ATTACK!!!!**
3. CREDITS: XXXXX
4. ABBENDIS: **Horde** forces have circled to the west! We must act **quickly** or risk being

outflanked!

5. ALEXANDROS: We ride, men! **Uphold** the western flank at **all** cost!
6. OGRE: **GRRRNN---**

PAGE FOUR

1. OGRE: **AAAGGGH!!**
2. OGRE: UNGH?
3. SFX: **THHH-BOOOM!!**
4. TIRION: You grow **careless** in your old age, **Alexandros**! I won't always be around to watch your **back**!
5. ALEXANDROS: I would have **felled** the brute soon enough, brother **Tirion**! You've gone and ruined my **sport**!
6. TIRION: **Ha**! You're **welcome**!

PAGE FIVE

1. WARLOCK: **Sharakh zaham kirol!!!**
2. ALEXANDROS: By the **Light...**
3. SFX: **THAA-WOOOMMM!!!!**
4. ALEXANDROS: You up there, **target** the **warlock!!!**
5. ALEXANDROS: The rest of you **fall back**! Do **not** engage!!!

PAGE SIX

1. SOLDIER: Enemy **sighted**, sire!
2. ALEXANDROS: **Let fly!!** Cut that motherless greenskin down!!!
3. SFX: **SSTHHMMPP!!**
4. WARLOCK: Zar-kuum?
5. SFX: **SSSHA-THULLCHT!!**

6. ALEXANDROS: Never before have I beheld an artifact of such **power**. If only it could be **commanded** by the **Light**....

PAGE SEVEN

1. ALEXANDROS: What army could stand **against** it? Surely in the **right hands**--

2. ALEXANDROS: **EEEYAAGGGHH!!!!**

3. ALEXANDROS: What **madness** is this? My **healing** powers... have no effect!

4. DWARF: Nor **mine**, lord. A **foul omen** indeed. Whatever the **object** may be, 'tis surely an instrument of **evil**. And as such...

5. DWARF (CAPTION): is undoubtedly better left **alone**.

PAGE EIGHT

1. CAPTION: The **Second War** ended with the defeat of the **orchish Horde**.

2. CAPTION: In the years that followed, for a brief time, there was **peace**. But in a world shaped by **war**...

3. CAPTION: **Peace** never lasts **long**.

4. RENAULT: Come on, **touch** it! What are you, **scared**?

5. DARION: I don't **wanna** touch it! **You** touch it!

6. ALEXANDROS: How many times have I **told** you? How often must I **repeat** myself?

7. RENAULT: Ow! **Hey**!

8. ALEXANDROS: I've said it a hundred times: **don't** sneak into my room! **Don't** touch my things!! But above all, I've told you to **never** open the **lockbox**!

9. DARION: It was **Renault's** idea!

10. RENAULT: You little **cockroach**!

11. ALEXANDROS: **Quiet** Renault! I'm **disappointed** in you most of all! What a fine **example** you set for your younger brother! The **orb**, of all things! Haven't I always told you to **protect** Darion? To **look out** for him? Both of you to your rooms! Now!

12. ALEXANDROS: Oh how they like to **test** me sometimes. **Still**, my love, you would be

proud of them....

13. ALEXANDROS: And **shocked** at how much they've **grown**. Renault reminds me of **myself** in many ways; brash, headstrong, aggressive. Darion is more like **you**... he has your quiet **strength**. I can see it in him even now. Ahh... I wish you could have **known** him.

14. ALEXANDROS: I **miss** you, Elena, more with every passing day. I miss your unshakable **faith**. I miss the **light** that danced in your **eyes**. I pray with all my heart that you've found eternal **peace**.

PAGE NINE

1. FAIRBANKS: Am I... **interrupting**, sir?

2. ALEXANDROS: Just **tending** the **garden**, Fairbanks. How does the day find **you**?

3. FAIRBANKS: **Sore**. The human frame was not meant to straddle a giant **beast** for extended periods of time.

4. ALEXANDROS: Mm, yes I've heard the **two-mile** journey from **Capital City** can be a **grueling** one. What news?

5. FAIRBANKS: Grim developments among the **northern provinces**. Sickness, disease, death... some manner of unnatural **plague**. Those who perish from it return shortly after to visit ruin upon the **living**. These undead are called **Scourge**. **Lord Uther** himself is aiding **Prince Arthas** and the **Lady Jaina Proudmoore** in efforts to quell it. So far they have met with **no** success.

6. FAIRBANKS: As your **advisor** I recommend that we prepare to intercede if necessary.

7. ALEXANDROS: Hm....

8. FAIRBANKS: Sir?

9. ALEXANDROS: There's something that's been on my mind; a **discussion** I've been meaning to have for quite some time...

10. ALEXANDROS: Perhaps that time is **now**.

11. CAPTION: OLD HILLSBRAD. SOUTHSORE INN, DAYS LATER.

12. FAIRBANKS: Recent reports paint a **gruesome** portrait. The ranks of the **Scourge** continue to **grow**, adding to their numbers with each and every **kill**.

13. ISSILIEN: You've always been something of an **alarmist**, Fairbanks.

14. ALEXANDROS: This is not a matter to be taken **lightly**, Isillien. It is up to the **Knights**

of the **Silver Hand** to do all within our power to eradicate this new **threat**. It is why I **called** you here, my brothers.

15. ARCANIST DOAN: And you would have us believe this **artifact** of yours presents a **solution**? I must confess my astonishment that you've **kept** it all this time, Alexandros, especially considering... what it **did** to you.

16. ALEXANDROS: The artifact is indeed a relic **beyond** my understanding, Brother Doan. It is a living embodiment of **shadow**... a **void**. But I believe, I have always believed, that the possibility exists to forge it into a weapon of **righteousness**. After all, can good exist without evil? Can there be light without dark? They are two sides of the same coin, gentlemen....

PAGE TEN

1. ISILLIEN: A weapon of **righteousness**? This is **nonsense**!

2. ISILLIEN: It is an instrument of **wickedness** and therefore must be **destroyed**! If you **refuse** to carry out that task, Mograine, then I **will**!

3. SFX: **SSSHHZAACK!!!**

4. ALEXANDROS: It **consumed** the **Light**! Did I not **tell** you?

5. RENAULT: Did you **see** that? How could father have not **allowed** me to sit on this meeting? Does my opinion count for **nothing**? Why will no one **listen** to me?

6. DARION: **Shut up**! I can't hear!

7. ALEXANDROS: I **maintain** that the orb may be used for **good**.

8. ARCANIST DOAN: It has begun to **glow**. Perhaps there **is** something to this **after all**, Alexandros. At the very **least** it is worth further exploration. **Join me** brothers, in an **experiment**....

PAGE ELEVEN

1. SFX: **ZZZMMMM....**

2. FAIRBANKS: Its **coloration**... it is **changing**.

3. ALEXANDROS: I can feel its **power**, but **different** from before. Something has **changed**. Could it **be**? Could this be **it**? I **must** know... I **will** know.

4. SFX. **HSSSHHH!!**

5. ISSILIEN: Your hand! It is **healed**!
6. ALEXANDROS: What I felt when I **touched** it... the **Light** coursed through me as never **before**, and I through **it**. It healed much more than my **hand**. It healed my **spirit**!
7. ALEXANDROS: So it will **be**: from this blessed crystal we will forge a **weapon**; a weapon to **cast down** the undead.
8. DATHROHAN: We may have **need** for **just such** a weapon, Alexandros....
9. ARCANIST DOAN: Lord Commander **Dathrohan**!
10. DATHROHAN: Events surrounding the plague continue to spiral out of **control**. Mere days ago **Prince Arthas** sought to contain the plague by **killing** infected villagers in **Stratholme before** they could perish from the sickness. Men, women, children... he slaughtered them **all**.
11. DATHROHAN: And when **Uther** tried to stop him, **Arthas** accused our brother of **treason** and **suspended** the paladins from service.
12. ARCANIST DOAN: **Outrageous**! He does not have the **power** to take such action!
13. ISSILIEN: We must speak with **Arthas immediately**!
14. DATHROHAN: The prince has **left**, reportedly sailing for the frozen continent of **Northrend**.
15. ABBENDIS: Then what are we to **do**?
16. DATHROHAN: **Officially** we are to do **nothing**; we must wait while **Uther** seeks **council** with **King Terenas**. **Unofficially**, we will explore all available **options** to wipe out this **Scourge** entirely. Alexandros, should this plague continue to **spread**, who would be capable of **forging** this orb into a useful weapon?

PAGE TWELVE

1. CAPTION: KHAZ MODAN.
2. FAIRBANKS: Perhaps a **rest** is in order, my lord.
3. ALEXANDROS: Your frequent **resting**, coupled with this harsh **winter** has added several days to an already **lengthy** journey. If we tarry much longer, the plague will circle the known kingdoms **twice** before we return.
4. FAIRBANKS: If I may be so bold... General Abbendis expressed **apprehension** regarding our quest ... he voiced particular concern over your trusting of the **dwarves**.

5. ALEXANDROS: I have noted a growing **faction** within our order, Fairbanks... one led largely by Abbendis himself, a faction **intolerant** of what they deem to be the "**lesser**" races. It **disturbs** me, old friend. It is not **befitting** a paladin to treat others **unjustly** based on their heritage.

6. ALEXANDROS: I can assure you our dwarven friends have no **nefarious** intentions. They care **little** for the affairs of men. They would much rather explore their **own** history. And when it comes to masonry and engineering, none are better at delving into the **bowels** of the **earth**...

7. ALEXANDROS: And **shaping** it to their **purpose**.

8. FAIRBANKS: They are **masterful** sir, I'll give them that much. **Ironforge** is truly a marvel to **behold**.

9. GUARD: Who **goes** there?

10. ALEXANDROS: Please inform the good **King Magni** that Alexandros Mograine and his trusted advisor seek an **audience**.

11. GUARD: Well now, tis your lucky day! His majesty only just **returned**. Tread lightly, though... his **mood** is **sullen**.

PAGE THIRTEEN

1. CAPTION: Later, within the halls of Ironforge.

2. MAGNI: Aye, I **am** familiar with this Scourge. Have **ye** not heard the latest **news** from **Lordaeron**?

3. ALEXANDROS: Before setting out we learned that King Terenas **recalled** Arthas from **Northrend**, while the undead **continue** to rampage through our lands **unchecked**. My brothers finally **agreed** with me that a powerful weapon against the **Scourge** is called for.

4. MAGNI: **Much** has happened in recent days. Me own brother, **Muradin**, was in Northrend on an expedition with the **Explorers' League**. He and Arthas are... **were**, old friends. And it's because o' that black-hearted **fiend** Arthas that me brother is now **dead**.

5. ALEXANDROS: **Dead**? We had no... you have our deepest **condolences**, your **majesty**.

6. MAGNI: Condolences won't bring **back** me brother. But craftin' a **blade** with the express purpose o' **killing** those undead **bastards**... well, that feels a bit like **spittin'** in Arthas' **eye**, and that might just **ease** the pain some. It'll take **time** lads, but I'll forge ye a weapon... one the likes o' which ye have **never** seen before, and won't be likely to **again**!

PAGE FOURTEEN

1. CAPTION: There are those who believe that master dwarven blacksmiths possess the **ability** to impart **emotions** into the blades they shape.
2. CAPTION: Magni Bronzebeard never took much **stock** in the claims. **Nevertheless**, as he stands now holding the **orb**, thinking of the brother he will never **see** again, Magni **harnesses** all of his **rage**, his **fury**, his desire for **vengeance**; he calls upon them, **wills** them into **being**. He bellows a **warcry** that echoes in the vastness of the **Great Forge**....
3. CAPTION: And he brings the hammer **down**.
4. **SFX: SHAAKKOOOMMMM!!!**
5. CAPTION: **Again**, and **again**....
6. CAPTION: And **again**.
7. CAPTION: Time **passes**. Magni **toils**. Alexandros and Fairbanks **wait** for what seems an **eternity**. Until...
8. MAGNI: Tis **done**.
9. MAGNI: A **finer** blade has never been crafted by **my** hand. I only hope it does not come **too late**... a gryphon rider brought word to me only moments **ago**...
10. MAGNI: King Terenas is **dead**, lads. Killed by Arthas' own hand. **You** have **my** condolences. And though they won't bring back **your king**... perhaps this blade will administer some **justice**, return some semblance of **order** to the **turmoil** that grips your kingdom. Terenas was a good man, **wise** and **just**. **Know** that the dwarves of Ironforge will mourn his **passing**.

PAGE FIFTEEN

1. ALEXANDROS: Terenas, dead... **madness**.
2. FAIRANKS: I-- I can't... by the Light, will there be **nothing** for us to return home **to**?
3. MAGNI: I'm a **simple** dwarf, meself. But if I were **you** lads, I'd see to my **home** and **family**. The **war** will keep.
4. ALEXANDROS: Family, yes... **yes!** We must make **haste!** Thank you, good king. You may rest assured, I will make good use of **this**. I will **honor** Muradin's memory.
5. CAPTION: SEVERAL DAYS LATER....
6. ALEXANDROS: **Light** help me Fairbanks, if anything has **happened** to my boys, no

power in this world will **contain** my rage....

7. ALEXANDROS: **Darion! Renault!** Where--

8. ALEXANDROS: **Hearthglen!**

9. FAIRBANKS: **My lord!!!**

PAGE SIXTEEN

1. ALEXANDROS: Step **aside** Fairbanks...

2. ALEXANDROS: **I** will **handle** this.

3. CAPTION: In an **instant** the battle is joined.

4. **SFX: SHHUNNKTTT!!!**

5. CAPTION: And just as **swiftly**...

6. **SFX: FTHHLLKTT!!**

7. CAPTION: It is **finished**.

8. ALEXANDROS: This **blade**, Fairbanks... it feels as much a part of me as the **blood** that runs through my **veins**. It is purely, truly an instrument of **destruction**; a **beautifully lethal** creation that leaves nothing but **charred bone** in its wake.

9. ALEXANDROS: I will call it...

10. ALEXANDROS: The **Ashbringer**....

PAGE SEVENTEEN

1. CAPTION: HEARTHGLEN.

2. LADY ABBENDIS: Why are we still **discussing** this? To me the answer is **clear**: chop off its **head** and the **serpent** will die...

3. LADY ABBENDIS: We should **hunt** down and **kill** Arthas!

4. DATHROHAN: The **plague** will continue to **spread** whether Arthas is **alive** or not. The northern provinces have now become **Plaguelands**. The cities **overrun** by the Scourge are being used by the undead to **propagate** this **epidemic**. **Stratholme** and **Andorhal** are among the worst. We should focus our attentions there.

5. LADY ABBENDIS: And just let Arthas get away with **murder**? Nonsense! Does the **death** of **Terenas** mean nothing? What about **Uther**? Have you all **forgotten** so soon?
6. ABBENDIS: My daughter can be... **headstrong**, my lord. You must **excuse** her.
7. ABBENDIS: Lord Commander Dathrohan is **right**, my child. We must see to the most **immediate** threat.
8. ARCANIST DOAN: I too concur that we must focus on **containing** this plague.
9. ALEXANDROS (O.P.): Then let's stop **talking** and set to it!
10. DARION: **Father!**
11. ALEXANDROS: I got your **message**, boys. Well done. You don't know how **relieved** I am to see the two of you **safe**.
12. RENAULT: **Taelan Fordring** offered his lands for our **sanctuary**.
13. ALEXANDROS: I **served** in the **Second War** with your father, Taelan. No matter how things may have **turned out**, the **Tirion** I knew was a **good** man.
14. ALEXANDROS: Now... where are the **rest** of the **knights**? Surely this is not **all** that's left of the **Order** of the **Silver Hand**?

PAGE EIGHTEEN

1. DATHROHAN: It is so. Many of our paladins are **dead**. Lord Uther himself has **fallen** at the hands of **Arthas**.
2. ALEXANDROS: First **Terenas**, now **Uther**... Light preserve us.
3. DATHROHAN: **Disease** and **death** have laid claim to our lands, and the undead have shown no signs of **faltering**.
4. ALEXANDROS: Take **heart**, Lord Commander. **Hope** remains, for I come bearing a **weapon** of **war** unlike any other. The Scourge has taken **much** from us, there is no **denying** that. But **now**, my brothers...
5. ALEXANDROS: The **time** has **come** to start taking **back**.
6. CAPTION: For a time the fate of Azeroth once again teetered on the brink of **oblivion**, even as orcs and humans set aside their differences long enough to face off against the demonic **Burning Legion** in the **Third War**. The races of the world secured a hard-won victory despite **overwhelming** odds.
7. CAPTION: And so it is that in the war's aftermath, like a raging **inferno** ignited from a

single spark, the knights of the once proud **Order** of the Silver Hand exact a furious **retribution** across the **Plaguelands**.

8. CAPTION: And riding **foremost** among them is **Alexandros Mograine**: vanquisher, crusader, **deliverer**.

9. CAPTION: **Scourge** of the **Scourge**.

10. CAPTION: The **Ashbringer**.

11. CAPTION: Quickly his **deeds** become **tales**, and soon thereafter the tales of the **man** and his **blade**...

12. CAPTION: Become **legend**.

13. ALEXANDROS: There it is, **Stratholme**. This is sure to be our greatest challenge **yet**.

14. ABBENDIS: It is **unnatural** that these fires should still be **burning**. **Dark forces** are at work.

PAGE NINETEEN

1. ALEXANDROS: Abbendis is **right**, Darion. This could be unlike **anything** we have yet faced. I would not think **less** of you for turning **away**.

2. DARION: I **told** you I could sit idle no **longer**, father. I'm not a **boy** anymore.

3. ALEXANDROS: Your mind is **set**, then.

4. DARION: It **is**.

5. ALEXANDROS: So **be it**. Renault, you are to **watch** your brother at all times. **Protect** him. Am I understood?

6. RENAULT: **Yes** father.

7. CAPTION: Within the burning city, the sweltering **heat** is accompanied by the occasional **gunshot crack** of burning **wood**, setting already-**tense** nerves **further** on **edge**.

8. TAELAN: Why do I suddenly feel like a **rat** in a **maze**?

9. ALEXANDROS: **Hush**, Taelan! Be ready for **anything**.

10. **SFX: SSSHHH-KLAANGG!!!**

11. LADY ABBENDIS: Rats indeed, the **trap** is **sprung**! **Behind us!**

PAGE TWENTY

1. ALEXANDROS: **Close ranks!** Form a **phalanx** and we'll--
2. **SFX: GRRRRNNNNN--**
3. **SFX:--NNNAAKRAASHHH!!**
4. DATHROHAN: Move!
5. ALEXANDROS: We are **cut off** from the others!
6. DATHROHAN: **Alexandros! Abbendis!** Light **blast** you **horrors**, I can see nothing through this **cursed mob!**
7. DATHROHAN: **Ha!** A brief **respite** at least...
8. WHISPER SFX: ShaZanakKarishTuumRikil...

PAGE TWENTY ONE

1. DATHROHAN: What--
2. BALNAZZAR: **Sleep.**
3. LADY ABBENDIS: You knights! **Clear** me a path through that **rubble**, **damn** your **eyes!** We must find **another** way **out! Quickly!**
4. ABBENDIS: **Darion**, look **out!**
5. **SFX: MRRAAGGHH!!**
6. DARION: **YAAAGGHHH!!**
7. RENAULT: Darion!
8. TAELAN: **Back** to the **abyss** with you!!

PAGE TWENTY TWO

1. DATHROHAN: Hhnn...
2. DATHROHAN: Who-- you... are **Legion.**

3. BALNAZZAR: **My** kind are called **nathrezim. Dreadlords**, in your tongue. Perhaps **thal'kituun** would be more fitting. It means **unseen guest** in our language. **Fitting** because I have existed here, between the world of the **living** and the **dead**, awaiting a moment such as **this**, under the very **noses** of the Scourge without their slightest **suspicion**.
4. DATHROHAN: You are an agent of **shadow**, and that is all I need to **know**. **Make** your **peace**, demon!!

PAGE TWENTY THREE

1. DATHROHAN: **HAAAGGHHH!!**
2. **SFX: WHHOOOSSHH**
3. BALNAZZAR: You are out of your **league**, paladin.
4. BALNAZZAR: **Know** that I am **Balnazzar**. Know, as I drink your **life**, that I will take up **residence** in this weak **shell** your **soul** once called **home**. Know that I will **corrupt** and **destroy** everything and everyone you have ever **loved**.
5. DATHROHAN (O.P.) **G-G-GRA-GAAAGHH!!**
6. KNIGHT: A path is **cleared**!
7. LADY ABBENDIS: **Fly**, as if the Legion **itself** were at your heels!

PAGE TWENTY FOUR

1. ALEXANDROS: At **last**, another gate....
2. ALEXANDROS: Barred!
3. DATHROHAN: **Make way**.
4. ALEXANDROS: Lord Commander! Light be **praised**, I had begun to fear the **worst**!
5. DATHROHAN: No need to worry about **me**, Alexandros. I'm an old hand at **beating** the **odds**.
6. ALEXANDROS: Yes, I--
7. ALEXANDROS: **Darion**! Is he...
8. LADY ABBENDIS: No **time**! Get that **gate** open!

9. DATHROHAN: With **pleasure**!

PAGE TWENTY FIVE

1. CAPTION: That night.

2. ISSILIEN: I fear that the sorcery runs **deep**, brother. Deeper than our abilities to **heal** it. Only his **faith** can carry him through now.

3. ALEXANDROS: What did I **tell** you, boy? I told you to **protect** him! How could you let this **happen**? **HOW**?

4. LADY ABBENDIS: It's a miracle **any** of us walked away.

5. DATHROHAN : A miracle **indeed**.

6. DATHROHAN: **Come**, Renault. Let your father **calm down**.

7. TAEAN: Renault was in danger **too**, you know.

8. ALEXANDROS: You think I show **favoritism**?

9. TAEAN: I did not mean any **disrespect**, lord...

10. ALEXANDROS: I'll **favor** you with a **story**, Taelan. The night Darion was born he was born **still**. He made no **movement**. He made no **sound**. In a **panic** I rushed out to the **stream** that courses near our home. I **plunged** Darion into the icy **waters** and to my astonishment, to my delight he began **flailing**. And then he cried **out**; the most exquisite sound I have ever **heard**. I ran **back** into the house to **inform** Elena that our son had **survived**... only to find that she had **not**.

11. ALEXANDROS: When I look into Darion's **eyes** I see my **wife**. **Losing** him would be like losing her **all over** again, and that is a thought I cannot **bear**. As long as Darion **lives**... a part of Elena lives as **well**. Perhaps it **is** unfair of me... but that is how I **feel**.

PAGE TWENTY SIX

1. CAPTION: Morning.

2. DARION: Ungh...

3. ALEXANDROS: **Darion**!

4. DARION: It was **black** as pitch all around me. I thought I might not make it out, but I followed the **Light**, father. It **led** me.

5. ALEXANDROS: It's **over** now. You're safe. I **love** you son. With all that I **am**...
6. ALEXANDROS: All I **was**...
7. ALEXANDROS: All I ever **will be**.
8. CAPTION: Days later. Hearthglen.
9. TYROSUS: I tell you, our numbers are too **few**. We must look to recruiting among the **night elves, dwarves, and gnomes** if we are to **retake** our fallen cities.
10. ABBENDIS: It is not for the **lesser races** to meddle in the affairs of **men**, Maxwell!
11. ISSILIEN: I agree. They are **not** to be trusted!
12. DARION: I think lord Tyrosus is **right**! What right do we have to **judge** the other races?
13. RENAULT: It is our **Light-given** right to do so, brother. Now be **silent**!
14. DARION: I don't take **orders** from **you**!

PAGE TWENTY SEVEN

1. ALEXANDROS: **Enough**! If the other races offer their **help** we should **accept** it. But for now we will do our best to handle our **own** problems.
2. ABBENDIS: We have not considered the city of **Tyr's Hand**, to the northeast. It is a city of **churches** that has managed to **hold out** against the Scourge, last I heard. Their faithful **citizens** would make for strong **allies**.
3. FAIRBANKS: There is **also** the matter of these **free-willed** undead who are rumored to amass at the ruins of **Capital City**. They are led by a fallen **elf** ranger called **Sylvanas Windrunner**.
4. LADY ABBENDIS (O.P.): Free willed or **not**, they must be **destroyed** like all other undead!
5. ISSILIEN (O.P.): Hear, hear!
6. ALEXANDROS: We will **confer** with the good people of Tyr's Hand. We will raise an **army**, and we will **wipe out** these free-willed undead. They are not a threat **now**, but we cannot allow them to **become** one. Not in our own **back yard**.

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1. **SFX: Snikt!**
2. CAPTION: That night, in the chambers of Lord Commander Dathrohan...
3. DATHROHAN: Alexandros intends to **attack** the **Forsaken**.
4. VARIMATHRAS: The Highlord must **not** be allowed to **interfere**.
5. DATHROHAN: He is **strong-willed**, a man of deep **faith**. **Incorruptible**.
6. VARIMATHRAS: What of those **closest** to him?
7. DATHROHAN: The youngest son displays the same **conviction** as his **father**. The **oldest**, however, possesses a **darker** turn of **soul**.
8. VARIMATHRAS: **Good**. Win him to our **cause**. **Eliminate** the threat Alexandros poses without **revealing** your hand. Lady Sylvanas thinks to have me under her **thumb**, and so it must **be**, for now. In time she will learn that **Varimathras** is no one's **pawn**.
9. DATHROHAN: The Legion shall devour **all**, dear brother. And the final gambit shall **commence...**
10. With the **death** of **Highlord Alexandros Mograine!**

NEXT: **ASHES TO ASHES!**